



The Compass

July-August 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspectives on Presidential Legacies for Life and Liberty in Pilgrimage of Prayer

Upon recent years through these latter days of life and liberty while in pursuit of happiness, I have continually experienced increased appreciation for the legacy following our nation’s declaration of independence. We again together remember America the beautiful and its bounteous blessings bestowed unto us in annual celebration by commemorative observance of July 4, 1776. With the present season’s predictive sentiments effecting careful consideration of civic stewardship at summertime preceding quadrennial presidential election, we are possibly poised to brace position for potential impact on people’s welfare. Two years prior to two and a half centuries later currently careening round bend toward quarter century’s end into the new millennium, the country seemingly appears on the precipice of a cautionary cliff at a critical juncture in the journey marked by monumentally precipitous change already underway. I cannot help but contain growing concern regarding the plight of this democratic republic in which we the people are afforded renewed opportunity to intercede before the throne of grace for providence to preside anew over the sovereign affairs of a free society.

Sometime during and after the pandemic lockdowns, I began to discern a distinct sense of call in my prayer life concerning our nation’s federal governance through past and present executive administrations and accompanying legislative sessions and judicial terms into the future. I have felt led to visit on intermittent tour(s) various U.S. presidential libraries and museums under the Office of Presidential Libraries’ purview within the Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries, and Museum Services division of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The following pertinent quotation attributed to

previous British statesman, soldier, and writer, Sir Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and prominent figure amidst the darkest hour during WWII, serves as a reminder on this recent endeavor.

“Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”
—Winston Churchill, to the British House of Commons, 1948

A prior year’s photograph at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum in Boston includes within its towering edifice a tall, impressive column inside a large atrium displaying our nation’s flag from the zenith of the memorial stature’s pavilion. The space designed serves as an area of reflection on the accomplishments and unfinished work of the Kennedy Presidency.¹ May we as well reflect, praying for the sovereign

Lord’s provision from on high in our time.

In Christ’s Service,

—Pastor Rex



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¹<https://www.jfklibrary.org/visit-museum/visit/host-an-event/spaces-and-fees/the-museum-pavilion>

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TAKE A HOLY LAND TOUR



During the recent Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering, attendees took a Holy Land tour while remaining seated in the Fellowship Hall. Jerry Bailey spoke to the group about Jordan, Israel, and Greece. PW President, Julia Schwomeyer, is pictured above introducing Mr. Bailey. Photo by Claire Smith.



Dr. Liza Haggenjos has completed her post medical school residency program in Family Medicine, from Grant Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

As a board certified Family Physician she will be moving to South Carolina to join an established practice. She will pursue primary care for Obstetrics and Family Medicine in the rural community of Seneca.

Dr. Haggenjos is the daughter of Dr. Mark and Donna Haggenjos.

**The Church Office
will be closed
Wednesday, July 3 -
Thursday, July 4**



Reminder: You can view, download and print a color copy of this newsletter from the church website www.firstpcportland.org.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY 2024



The Christian Education Committee recently honored volunteers who participate in Christian education programs throughout the year. Pictured above are our youth who serve as acolytes along with committee chair, Jenny Stout. *Photo by Claire Smith.*



Pictured above (L-R) are our Christian Education teachers: Julia Schwomeyer, Fran Austin, Pete Vogler, Debbie Ford, and Sarona Goodrich being honored by committee chair, Jenny Stout. *Photos by Claire Smith.*



Pictured left (L-R) are the volunteers who deliver the weekly Children's Messages: Pete Vogler, Rachel Benirschke, Linda Frantz, Reid Knuth, and Dennis Ford. *Photo by Claire Smith.*

CONFIRMATION CLASS CONFIRMS THEIR FAITH



The 2013-2014 Confirmation Class recently reaffirmed their baptismal covenant by publicly professing their faith and desire to become members of the local faith congregation. Pictured (L-R) Pastor Rex Espiritu, Eric Trinidad, father of candidates Carley and Morgan Trinidad, candidate Madeline Benirschke and her mother, Rachel Benirschke. *Photo by Claire Smith.*



<u>July</u>		<u>August</u>	
01	Bev Arnold	09	Kathy Ayers
	Larry Hiatt	10	Sarona Goodrich
03	David Loyd	15	Brooklynn Byrum
04	Dennis Ford	23	Phil Frantz
06	Suzie Arnold		Kadin Ross
10	Linda Rodden	24	Sandra Bailey
12	Tom McCord	25	Seth Rodden
13	Sam Benirschke	27	Donna Haggenjos
19	Ron Bisel	30	Lucas Rodden
20	Paul Byrum		
23	Becca James		
27	Carol Knight		
29	Meg Mauger		
31	Violet Trinidad		

BREAD OF LIFE MEAL

The next Bread of Life Community Dinner First Presbyterian Church will host is on Monday, July 29.



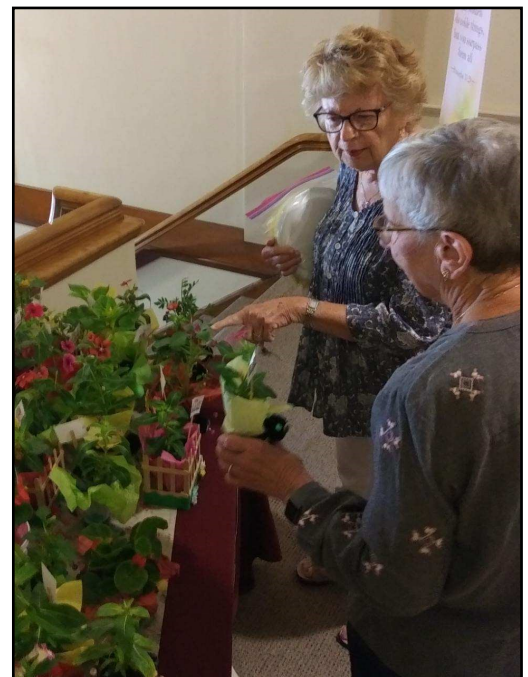
If you want to help serve or if you would like to provide some of the food, please contact Julia Schwomeyer at 726.4761 or call the church office at 726.8462.

Editor's Note: It is the policy of "The Compass" to refrain from publishing names of children pictured in order to protect their privacy and identity since our newsletter is published on the church website. Adults may be identified in certain circumstances.



During a recent Cookies, Coffee & Conversation following morning worship, the Deacons held a Choir Appreciation event to thank our sanctuary choir for their gift of music and song. Choir members pictured back row (L-R): Eric Rogers, Rachel Benirschke, Reid Knuth; front row (L-R): Rev. Espiritu, Pam Rogers, Madeline Benirschke, Julia Schwomeyer, Gloria Green, and Claire Smith. Not pictured: Tom Dunn, Donna Haggengjos, David Loyd, Jennifer Rupe, Lisa Vogler, and Pete Vogler. *Photo by Mary McCord.*

LADIES HONORED ON MOTHER'S DAY



Once again this year, our youth Sunday school class expressed its appreciation for our church ladies on Mother's Day with hand-crafted planters each containing a live plant. Pictured above are members of the youth Sunday school class. *Photo by Sarona Goodrich.*

Linda Frantz and Carol Knight select a favorite planter. *Photo by Claire Smith.*



**FIRST
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Our Vision Statement

“To provide a ministry which will lead people to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and reach out with God’s love.”



CALENDAR

July

- 03 Church Office Closed
- 04 Independence Day-Office Closed
- 07 Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 29 Bread of Life Community Meal

August

- 04 Communion/Cookes, Coffee & Conversation
- 12 9:00am Newsletter Deadline

**Church Office hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm
Closed on Friday**

**Sunday Morning Worship 9:30am
in person & via Facebook**

A VISIT TO JANET



Rev. Espiritu recently made a trek to North Carolina to visit our long-distance member Janet Barrett. Pastor Rex carried our church family's warm greetings and love to Janet. *Photo by Rex Espiritu.*